AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 1, lines 12-19 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

A dye-based polarizing film is manufactured in such a manner that a base material for polarizing film, such as a oriented polyvinyl alcohol-based film or polyene-based film which is obtained by orienting polyene produced through dehydrochlorination of polyvinyl chloride film or dehydration of polyvinyl alcohol-based film, ~~is added by dye which~~ to which is added a dye that covers a desirable wavelength as a polarizing element. For example, a compound having the following structure is described in WO 00/37973 as dye, which covers a wavelength with a range of 520 to 580 nm in the case of being used as a polarizing element.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 6-7 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

In the case that the polymer film contains the above-mentioned dye, a method of dyeing the polymer film is typically employed. The dyeing can be performed, for example, in the following manner. First, the above-mentioned dye is dissolved in water to prepare a dyebath. Though it is not particularly limited, the concentration of the dye in the dyebath is typically selected from a range of 0.0001 to 10% by weight. Also, as required, a dyeing assistant may be used; for example, sodium sulfate decahydrate (Glauber's salt) is suitably used by 0.1 to 10% by weight in the dyebath. The polymer film is immersed in the dyebath thus prepared to be dyed. The temperature for the dyeing is preferably 40 to 80°C. The orientation of the dye is performed

by stretching the polymer film. ~~Either method of a~~ A wet method, a dry method ~~and~~ or the like may be employed as a method of stretching. The stretching of the polymer film may be performed either before or after dyeing.

Please replace the paragraph on page 7, lines 10-19 with the following amended paragraph:

Post treatment such as boric acid treatment is performed, as required, for the oriented polymer film containing the dye by a conventional method. Such post treatment is performed for the purpose of improving ray transmittance, polarization degree and durability of the polarizing film. The boric acid treatment varies with ~~kinds~~ the kind of the polymer film and the dye employed, and is usually performed in a temperature range of from 30 to 80°C, preferably from 50 to 80°C by using an aqueous solution of boric acid having a concentration with a range of generally from 1 to 15% by weight, preferably from 5 to 10% by weight. In addition, as required, a fixing treatment may be performed together by an aqueous solution containing a cationic polymer.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 7-8 with the following amended paragraph:

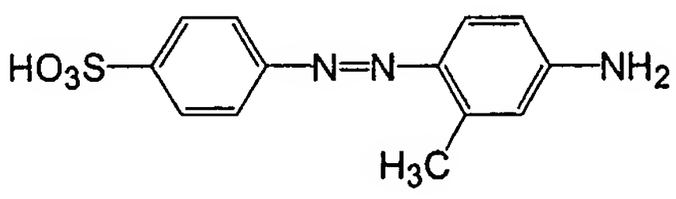
The dye-based polarizing film thus obtained can be made into a polarizing plate by laminating protective film, which is superior in optical transparency and mechanical strength, on one side or both sides thereof. A material to be used for forming the protective film may be conventionally used materials, for example, a cellulose acetate-based film, an acrylic-based film,

a fluoride resin-based film such as tetrafluoroethylene-hexafluoropropylene copolymer, a polyester-based film, a polyolefin-based film, a polyamide-based film, and the like.

Please replace the paragraph on page 8, lines 7-13 with the following amended paragraph:

EXAMPLE 1

110 parts of the monoazo compound of the formula (4)

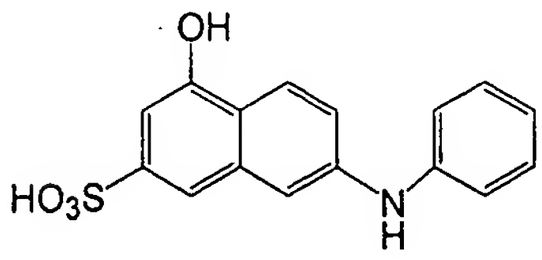


(4)

and 30 parts of sodium nitrite were added to 1500 parts of water, and thereafter 120 parts of 35% ~~of~~ hydrochloric acid was added thereto, and the mixture was stirred at a temperature of 0 to 10°C for 2 hours to obtain a solution of diazo compound.

Please replace the paragraph on page 8, line 14 to page 9, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

Meanwhile, 157 parts of the naphthol compound of the formula (5)



(5)

was added to 700 parts of water and the mixture was stirred at a temperature of 0 to 10°C. The solution of the diazo compound obtained above was added to this mixture over a period of 1 hour while maintaining pH of 7 in the reaction solution by adding an aqueous solution of sodium

carbonate. After the addition of the diazo compound solution, a coupling reaction was performed by stirring for another 1 hour to obtain the disazo compound of the formula (1). The value of λmax of this disazo compound was denoted at 539 nm in aqueous solvent.

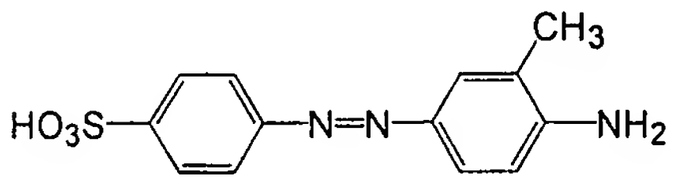
Please replace the paragraph on page 9, lines 2-19 with the following amended paragraph:

A polyvinyl alcohol film having a thickness of 75 μm (the trade name "~~Kuraray Vinylon~~ KURARAY VINYLON #7500" manufactured by Kuraray Co., Ltd.) was stretched longitudinally uniaxially by five times to be made into a base material for a polarizing film. This polyvinyl alcohol film was immersed in aqueous solution at a temperature of 70°C, which ~~is~~ was adjusted to pH of 9 in concentrations of 0.025% for the salt of the disazo compound (1) and 0.2% for sodium sulfate decahydrate (a dyeing assistant), while being maintained in a condition ~~of its~~ tension. Next, after being immersed in a 7.5% ~~of~~ aqueous solution of boric acid at a temperature of 78°C for 5 minutes, the polyvinyl alcohol film was taken out and washed with water at a temperature of 20°C for 20 seconds and dried at a temperature of 50°C so as to obtain a polarizing film. The value of λmax (a wavelength for minimizing the transmittance of the film in a stretching direction, hereinafter the same) of the polarizing film obtained was denoted at 550 nm, and this polarizing film exhibited a high polarization degree. The polarizing film also exhibited a long-time durability in a condition of high temperature and high humidity. When the polarizing film here obtained was irradiated by a high-pressure mercury lamp for 48 hours so as to observe absorbance change (ΔA) thereof, the value was 0.3, leading to a superior light resistance.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 9 and 10 with the following amended paragraph:

EXAMPLE 2

~~Salt~~ The salt of the disazo compound of ~~the~~ formula (2) was obtained in the same manner as in Example 1 except for using the azo compound of the formula (6)



(6)

instead of the azo compound (4). The value of λmax of this salt was denoted at 532 nm in an aqueous solvent.

Please replace the paragraph on page 10, lines 4-20 with the following amended paragraph:

The polyvinyl alcohol film having a thickness of 75 μm (the trade name "~~Kuraray Vinylon~~ KURARAY VINYLON #7500" manufactured by Kuraray Co., Ltd.) was stretched longitudinally uniaxially by five times to be made into a base material for a polarizing film. This polyvinyl alcohol film was immersed in aqueous solution at a temperature of 70°C, which ~~is~~ was adjusted to pH of 9 in concentrations of 0.025% for the salt of the disazo compound (2) and 0.2% for sodium sulfate decahydrate (a dyeing assistant), while being maintained in a condition ~~of its~~ tension. Next, after being immersed in a 7.5% ~~of~~ aqueous solution of boric acid at a temperature of 78°C for 5 minutes, the polyvinyl alcohol film was taken out and washed with water at a temperature of 20°C for 20 seconds and dried at a temperature of 50°C so as to obtain a

polarizing film. The value of λmax of the polarizing film obtained denoted at 550 nm, and this polarizing film exhibited a high polarization degree. The polarizing film also exhibited a long-time durability in a condition of high temperature and high humidity. When the polarizing film here obtained was irradiated by a high-pressure mercury lamp for 48 hours so as to observe absorbance change (ΔA) thereof, the value was 0.5, leading to a superior light resistance.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 10-11 with the following amended paragraph:

COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE 1

A polyvinyl alcohol film having a thickness of 75 μm (the trade name "~~Kuraray Vinylon~~ KURARAY VINYLON #7500" manufactured by Kuraray Co., Ltd.) was stretched longitudinally uniaxially by five times to be made into a base material for a polarizing film. This polyvinyl alcohol film was immersed in an aqueous solution at a temperature of 70°C, which ~~is~~ was adjusted to a pH of 9 in concentrations of 0.025% for the salt of the following disazo compound (7) and 0.2% for sodium sulfate decahydrates (a dyeing assistant), while being maintained in a condition of tension. Next, after being immersed in a 7.5% ~~of an~~ aqueous solution of boric acid at a temperature of 78°C for 5 minutes, the polyvinyl alcohol film was taken out and washed with water at a temperature of 20°C for 20 seconds and dried at a temperature of 50°C so as to obtain a polarizing film. The value of λmax of the polarizing film obtained was denoted at 550 nm.

Please replace the paragraph at page 12, lines 5-10 with the following amended paragraph:

~~Disazo~~ The disazo compound or salt thereof of the present invention is particularly superior in light resistance against a long-time exposure when used as a polarizing element. Also, a dye-based polarizing film of the present invention is superior in light resistance against a long-time exposure and initial polarizing performance, thereby it can be used for a liquid crystal projector and an in-car display device (a car navigation system).